



Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

Release Highlights: July 28, 2005

MONTANA

Survey of Business Owners, 2002 Economic Census

Preliminary Estimates of Business Ownership by Gender, Hispanic or Latino Origin, and Race: 2002 <http://ceic.mt.gov/EconCen.htm>

Over 6,700 new firms were established in Montana between 1997 and 2002, a growth rate of 7.2%. According to the recently released U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 Survey of Business Owners (SBO), over 100,000 Montana firms generated more than \$44 billion in sales and receipts. For those firms with paid employees, sales and receipts accounted for 94% of the total of all firms, employed over 294,000 workers in 28,258 establishments and experienced an 8.8% growth rate.

Women now own over 24,000 of all Montana firms, with sales and receipts of over \$2 billion. Women-owned businesses grew 10% between 1997 and 2002, eclipsing the 7.2% growth rate of all Montana firms, by adding more than 2,100 new establishments. Women-owned businesses with paid employees account for 16% of all establishments, employ 7% of the Montana workforce, and receive nearly 5% of all sales and receipts. Over 21,000 Montanans work for women-owned businesses, earn \$363 million and bring in nearly \$1.8 billion in sales and receipts.

Montana's minority-owned businesses had vastly different experiences over the same 5-year time period. American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIAN), the largest minority in Montana, own 1,990 businesses and realized over \$215 million in sales and receipts in 2002. AIAN-owned businesses with paid employees saw their sales increase nearly 40% with 81 fewer establishments. Nevertheless, employment rose 11% while payroll increased 34%. Tribally owned businesses are not included in the above counts.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the number of all Hispanic-owned businesses and their subsequent sales declined 4% and 14% respectively. One bright spot was the increase of payroll for employees working for Hispanic-owned firms; earnings rose 43%. This decline in Hispanic-owned businesses occurred despite the estimated increase in the Hispanic population, from 15,152 in 1997 to 19,092 in 2002.

From a percentage standpoint, the total number of Black-owned businesses skyrocketed 255% from 1997 to 2002. However, Black-owned businesses are by far the smallest in number, with only a total of 62 in 1997 and 220 in 2002. Black-owned businesses employ 90 workers and had a payroll of \$2 million in 2002.

In 2002, Asian-owned and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-owned businesses with paid employees increased 51% from 1997. Over 1,500 workers are employed by these 260 businesses; they earn over \$26 million in payroll and generate \$94 million in sales and receipts. Due to survey sampling standards, the total number of all Asian-owned and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander owned businesses were not released.

The SBO report, part of the Census Bureau's Economic Census completed every 5 years, provides statistics that describe the composition of U.S. businesses by gender, race, and ethnicity. More detailed reports will be released on a flow basis starting in January 2006 and will include sub-state data such as county and eventually down to Place level. The reports will be arranged via concept, such as Women-Owned, and will detail the information for all states. This survey was previously conducted as the 1997 Economic Census Surveys of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (SMOBE/SWOBE).

CONTACT

Susan Ockert
Senior Economist

Census and Economic
Information Center
Montana Department
of Commerce
301 S. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200505
Helena, MT 59620
406.841.2740 Office
406.841.2702 TDD
<http://ceic.mt.gov/>

RECENTLY RELEASED

July 21, 2005

Housing Unit Estimates by
State and County, 2004

June 30, 2005

City/Town Population
Estimates, 2004

June 23, 2005

Gross State Product, 2004

UPCOMING RELEASES

August 4, 2005

County Business Patterns,
2003

Fall 2005

More Economic Census
Reports